

On The Green

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Sprint gift boosts teleconferencing effort

By Jeff Murray and Regan Quinn

Washington, D.C., and Westwood, Kan., are more than 1,000 miles apart, but thanks to a \$200,000 gift from the Sprint Foundation, the gap was narrowed July 17 when a group at Gallaudet talked face-to-face with officials at Sprint headquarters through the wonder of teleconferencing.

The meeting, held in the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center's teleconference room, served as an occasion for Gallaudet President I. King Jordan and Vice Presidents Roslyn Rosen and Margarete Hall to officially thank Sprint Foundation Executive Director Don Forsythe for the foundation's generous donation to the University.

The electronic thank-you note was appropriate since Sprint's December 1995 pledge of \$200,000 over a two-year period—the result of a proposal prepared by the Development Office—was earmarked specifically for a teleconference room in the GUKCC.

TTY-a-thon reaches new alumni donors

The annual summer TTY-a-thon, held the evenings of August 7 and 8, brought in \$4,000 in pledges for Gallaudet's Annual Fund, which supports various projects and funds on campus.

According to TTY-a-thon coordinator Maricela Robertson, '85, a development associate in the Development Office, the 21 alumni who volunteered for the event reached approximately 1,000 alumni.

Robertson said that this TTY-a-thon differed from those held in the past in that the callers mainly contacted new alumni donors—those who have never given to the University or those who have allowed several years to lapse since their last gift. The TTY-a-thon attempted to re-establish these alumni's ties to the University by having callers contact fellow athletes, classmates, and sorority and fraternity members. Alumni from the Classes of 1971 and 1976, who will be celebrating anniversaries at Homecoming October 19, were asked to make contributions for the class gift.

The TTY-a-thon was a great success, Robertson feels. "The primary goal was for new donors to commit themselves to giving to the University, and we achieved that goal satisfactorily," she said. She added that 10 volunteers will become members of the new Trailblazers Society. To become an official Trailblazer, one has to assist the University by recruiting three new donors.

The next TTY-a-thon is slated for November 10-14. Alumni and friends who have not made gifts to Gallaudet during the past year will be contacted.

The room, which was recently completed, houses technology that makes it possible for two to eight sites to be connected via telephone lines. This technology enables both deaf and hearing users to have instantaneous visual contact with other locations worldwide.

A portion of the Sprint gift is also being used to equip a remote video conference facility at Gallaudet's Midwestern Regional Center at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan. Gallaudet hopes that similar capabilities will be made available at all the regional centers in the near future.

In addition to Drs. Jordan, Rosen, and Hall, the following people participated in or observed the teleconference meeting with Forsythe: Dr. Jim Fernandes, director of University Outreach; Jim Dellon, director of Television Programming and Services; Jim Payne, assistant vice president of FTS 2000 and Strategic Marketing for Sprint Government Services and a member of Gallaudet's Board of Associates; Lynn Farrow, manager of Strategic Communications for Sprint Government Services; Dr. Edna Wilson, dean of the College for Continuing Education at Marywood College, Scranton, Pa.; and Catherine Dehoney and Regan Quinn, director and associate director of foundation and corporate relations in the Development Office.

Jordan told Forsythe that many people were eager to thank him and the Sprint Foundation in person for their support. Since a trip to Kansas for everyone would be quite costly and time consuming, he said he was thrilled to be able to employ the teleconferencing facility to demonstrate this technological breakthrough that Sprint has made possible for Gallaudet.

Dellon then gave a visual tour of the teleconferencing room by rotating the cameras to focus on various features of the room. He explained the expanded uses made possible by designing the system to be capable of sending the teleconference signal to other rooms in the GUKCC, as well as to other meeting spaces across campus.

Teleconferencing is becoming a commonplace technology in both the corporate and academic communities. Recently, Gallaudet connected electronically with the California School for the Deaf at Riverside where newspaper and journalism students interviewed Dr. Jordan about the University, the Deaf President Now movement, and what he thinks the future holds for them and for Gallaudet.

continued on page 2



Officers on DOSS's bicycle patrol are, from left (front) Lt. Ronald Tate, Gregory Borges, Don Coleman, Paul Starke, (back) Richard Dean, and Dean Prentice.

DOSS officers patrolling on bicycles supplement campus security measures

Gallaudet's Department of Safety and Security has joined the growing number of police and campus security departments that are putting officers on bicycles to supplement traditional foot and car patrols.

At any time of the day or night, Lieutenant Ronald Tate and officers Gregory Borges, Richard Dean, Paul Starke, Dean Prentice, and Don Coleman can be seen patrolling Kendall Green. The officers travel on each eight-hour shift on specially equipped, lightweight, 21-speed, all-terrain mountain bikes.

Many countries have relied on bicycles for decades in protecting the lives and well-being of their citizenry. The United States, however, was slow catching onto the trend. The Seattle, Wash., Police Department caught the attention of police departments across the nation when it started a bicycle patrol in the 1980s as a way for officers to patrol the streets despite traffic congestion.

The advantages of bicycles are that they can get into places a police cruiser could never manage—hopping curbs, negotiating steep embankments, running down narrow alleys, even mastering stairs, and in many cases they permit officers to respond much more quickly to emergencies than their counterparts who are driving or walking. But perhaps the biggest plus is that the bicycles give officers the benefit of surprise. A crime suspect could be keeping a keen eye out for a police car, but may not be able to easily detect an officer approaching on a bicycle.

"In order to attempt to improve response time to incidents and to

patrol secluded areas, this is the perfect vehicle," said DOSS Manager Bernard Holt. The bicycle units were added to DOSS on the direction of Vice President for Administration and Business Paul Kelly and Director of Business Services Fred Kendrick, who oversee DOSS's operations. Kelly, Kendrick, and Holt feel that the bicycle patrols will be a good way to help improve campus security measures.

Numerous officers volunteered to participate in the bicycle patrols, and six were chosen. The University purchased two Trek 8000 mountain bikes—one for each of the officers who will patrol each shift. These are not ordinary bicycles, just like a police car is not an ordinary automobile. Both have been specially equipped and modified to meet the unique demands that security work brings. The aluminum frame bicycles are strong but very light—only about 10 pounds, which makes them easy for officers to carry, if need be. They have 21 gears, enabling them to climb the steepest terrain on campus. They have twin high-beam headlights for night patrolling, and heavy-duty brakes.

Of course, a highly specialized piece of equipment like this is only as good as the ability of the person who is operating it. For that reason, the officers underwent extensive training led by certified instructors with the International Police Mountain Bike Association, a branch of the League of American Bicyclists.

The instructors are members of the University Police Department

continued on page 2

Officers participate in bicycle training

continued from page 1

at The George Washington University, which has had a campus bicycle patrol since 1991.

In addition to the Gallaudet security officers, five officers from GWU took part in the training.

During the class, which was held on Kendall Green from July 29 to August 2, the officers learned the proper way to operate the bicycles in all weather and traffic conditions, how to pursue a suspect, and how to stop and question suspects, keeping the bicycle between themselves and the person as a safety barrier.

The instructors stressed officer safety at all times. "The first thing we teach is safety before anything," said officer Darnell Douglass, one of the certified trainers. "We don't even allow an officer to straddle the bicycle without wearing a helmet." Bicycle officers also wear other protective gear, such as safety glasses and gloves and special bicycling shoes that are designed so that the rider's shoelaces won't get caught in pedals and cause a fall.

Corporal Frank Demes, another

certified trainer and the officer who first proposed that GWU use bicycles to enhance its patrolling efforts, said that at GWU officers patrol year-round and in all kinds of weather except snow and ice. Bicycle tires do not have good traction on slippery surfaces and are therefore unsafe to operate in these conditions, he explained. Holt said that the same practice is planned at Gallaudet.

Demes said that at GWU the bicycle patrols have been particularly effective in apprehending suspects in assaults on members of the university community, in chasing down suspects in thefts from vehicles parked at the university, and in escorting uninvited people from the university grounds.

"The bicycle is a tool to effectively do a job," added Douglass. He recalled that the first call he responded to on the GWU campus, he had the suspect apprehended and in handcuffs by the time the first patrol car reached the scene.

Bicycles can't replace foot or car patrols, said Douglass, "but they are an excellent supplement."



Safety and security officers from Gallaudet and George Washington University take part in an exercise during a five-day bicycle training seminar held on Kendall Green.

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Among Ourselves

Felicia Davis, administrative assistant in the School of Education and Human Services Dean's Office, has received an associate of arts degree in office technology from Prince George's Community College. Davis will attend Bowie State University this fall to pursue a bachelor of science degree in computer science technology.

Julia Bishop-Pitt, who was recently named Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Officer in the Office of Diversity and Community Relations, Office of the President, has earned a B.S. degree in organizational management (emphasis in human resources), from Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Md.

Dr. Vivek Chaudhry, an associate professor in the Business Administration Department, has received his doctor of philosophy degree in business administration (international business), from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.



Talking with Sprint Foundation Executive Director Don Forsythe at the teleconference are, from left: Sprint representatives Lynn Farrow and Jim Payne, President I. King Jordan, Vice President for Academic Affairs Roslyn Rosen, and Director of Television Programming and Services Jim Dellon. Also pictured is interpreter Phyllis Rogers (Not shown is Vice President for Institutional Advancement Margarete Hall.)

Thanks extended to Sprint at teleconference

continued from page 1

This is only one example of how teleconferencing can be used to enhance distance education and to recruit students for the University. At the July 17 meeting, Rosen and Fernandes talked about the lack of opportunities for easy visual communication among deaf people in the past and the new applications that they believe can be made possible with the teleconferencing equipment that the Sprint gift has made possible. Some of the ideas mentioned include:

- Courses and training from Gallaudet can be offered simultaneously at several sites;
- Staff at Gallaudet's regional centers can meet as a group with the director of University Outreach and other resource people on campus frequently and cost-effectively;
- Families across the nation who are seeking guidance in planning for their deaf or hard of hearing children's education can have direct visual communication with University faculty and Pre-College National Mission programs professionals;
- Deaf or hard of hearing high school students and their parents can have direct visual contact with Gallaudet admissions and financial aid staff, professors, and current students; and
- Training for mental health practitioners whose clients are deaf or hard of hearing can be provided through the Gallaudet University and Community Counseling and Mental Health Center.

Following the teleconference meeting, Forsythe was reached by telephone and asked for his impressions of the meeting and GUKCC's facility. "What is particularly exciting for me," replied Forsythe, "is that the people participating in our teleconference were imagining, discovering, and planning for uses of the technology that go far beyond those originally described in the grant proposal. Also key from my perspective is that while we were having an effective and productive meeting, I was actually seeing the grant funds at work."

Payne had similar thoughts. "I am amazed to learn of the variety of uses Gallaudet is planning for this facility. The way you designed your system so that the videoconference capability can be made available in other meeting rooms within the conference center as well as other areas throughout the campus is

fantastic." He went on to say, "Sprint may want to use this innovative design as a model for future facilities."

Gallaudet's teleconferencing system was designed and installed by VSI of Atlanta, Ga., and comprises a computer and telecommunications software as well as a remote camera and two monitors. On one monitor, participants at the home site can see graphics videotape and output sent from the remote cameras, and the other monitor displays whatever is being sent to the remote location from the home site. Gallaudet's service is connected to 'T-1' line, which is equivalent to 24 high-speed telephone lines. This high quality of service was selected to enhance the transmission of sign language.

The teleconference room can accommodate 15 people, but the technology can be electronically routed to other meeting rooms in the facility to accommodate up to 300 people.

SHS sponsors videos

Gallaudet's Student Health Service is sponsoring captioned videotapes on health-related topics. The tapes, which run about 30 minutes each, will be presented continuously through the fall semester on University cable channel 19.

The topics will change each month. From now until the end of September, the tapes, and the times they can be seen, are as follows: **Alcohol**—8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.; **Anorexia/Bulimia**—830 a.m., 1030 a.m., 1230 p.m., 230 p.m., and 430 p.m.; **Back Pain**—9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.; **Overweight/Obesity**—930 a.m., 1130 a.m., 130 p.m., and 330 p.m.

Anyone who has questions or comments can call SHS at x5090.

Classified Ads

FOR RENT: 3-BR, 2-BA TH in Bowie, Md., area, finished basement, \$975/mo. plus util. E-mail SEGALLAGHER or call x8-6083.

FOR RENT: Lower level of TH in Arlington, Va., furnished, bath and kitchenette, private ent., no pets or smokers, \$395/mo. incl. util. Call (703) 560-8594 (V).

FOR RENT: 2-BR, 1-BA cedar siding home on Chesapeake Bay in Shady Side, Md., \$750/mo. plus util. E-mail ADM REEDY or 11DHINES, or call (301) 261-5205.

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FOR RENT: Apt. within walking distance to campus, sep. ent., secure, reasonable rent. Call (301) 774-9719.

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